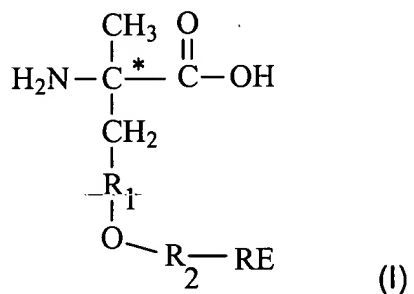


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

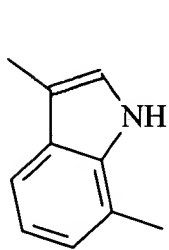
1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



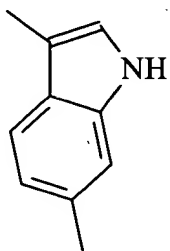
wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture;

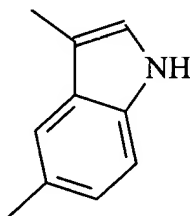
R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)



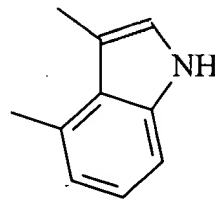
(a),



(b),



(c),



(d);

R₂ is C₁-C₇ alkyl; and

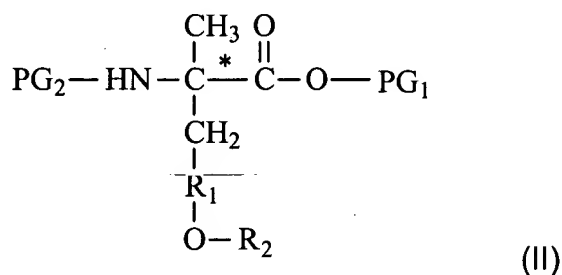
RE is selected from the group consisting of ⁷⁵Br, ¹²⁴I and ¹⁸F.

2. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is a single bond.
3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is phenyl.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3, wherein the -O-R₂-RE group is *para* the CH₂ group on the phenyl.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3, wherein the -O-R₂-RE group is *meta* the CH₂ group on the phenyl.
6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3, wherein the -O-R₂-RE group is *ortho* the CH₂ group on the phenyl.
7. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d).
8. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₂ is C₂-C₆ alkyl.
9. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₂ is C₂-C₅ alkyl.
10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is present in the L-form.
11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is present in the D-form.
12. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is present as a racemic mixture.
13. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 3-[¹⁸F]fluoro(C₂-C₆)- α -methyl tyrosine.

14. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 13, wherein the compound is 3-[¹⁸F]fluoropropyl-α-methyl tyrosine.

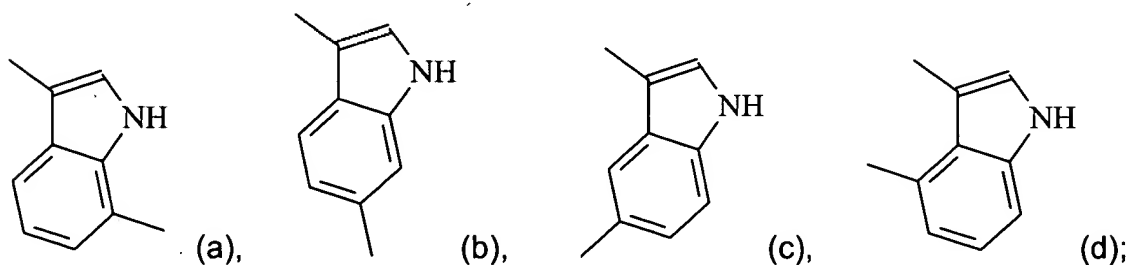
15. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (II):



wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture;

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)



R₂ is H or a group -R₃-O-R₄, wherein R₃ is C₁-C₇ alkyl and R₄ is H or a leaving group;

PG₁ is a carboxyl protecting group; and

PG₂ is an amino protecting group.

16. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein PG₂ is a Boc group.

17. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein PG₁ is C₁-C₃ alkyl.
18. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein R₁ is a single bond.
19. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein R₁ is phenyl.
20. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 19, wherein the -O-R₂ group is *para* the CH₂ group on the phenyl.
21. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 19, wherein the -O-R₂ group is *meta* the CH₂ group on the phenyl.
22. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 19, wherein the -O-R₂ group is *ortho* the CH₂ group on the phenyl.
23. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein R₁ is a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d).
24. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein R₂ is H.
25. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 15, wherein R₂ is a group -R₃-O-R₄.
26. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 25, wherein R₃ is C₂-C₆ alkyl.
27. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 25, wherein R₃ is C₂-C₅ alkyl.
28. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 25, wherein R₄ is H.
29. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 25, wherein R₄ is a sulfonyl group.

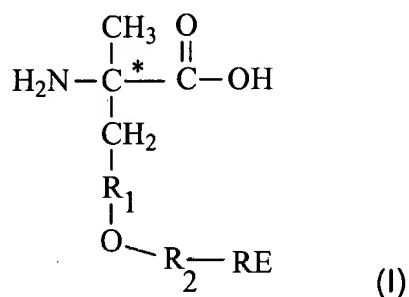
30. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 29, wherein R₄ is selected from the group consisting of tosyl, trifyl, mesyl, trimsyl, tripsyl, brosyl and nosyl.

31. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 30, wherein R₄ is selected from the group consisting of tosyl, trifyl and mesyl.

32. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 31, wherein R₄ is tosyl.

33. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 32, wherein R₃ is propyl.

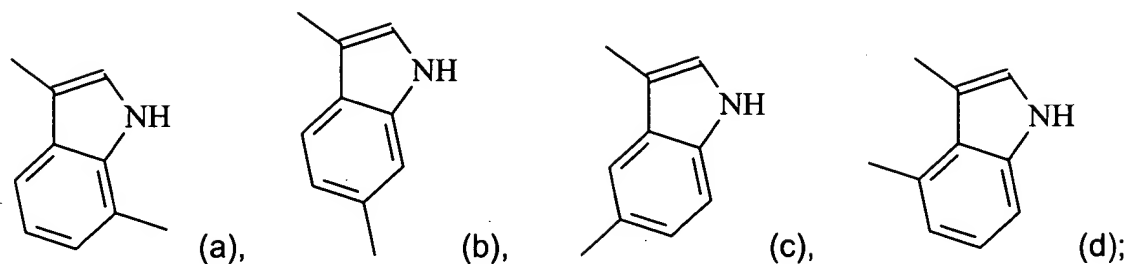
34. (Currently Amended) A method of synthesizing the a compound of claim 1, said compound being of formula (I):



wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture;

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)

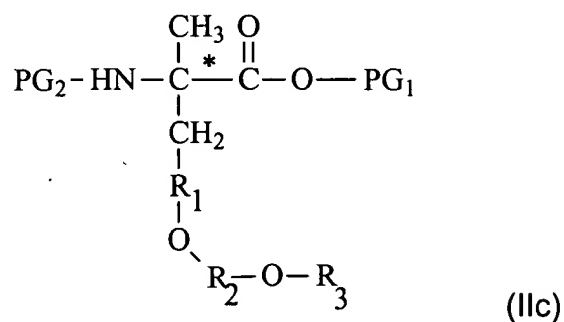


R_2 is C_1 - C_7 alkyl, and

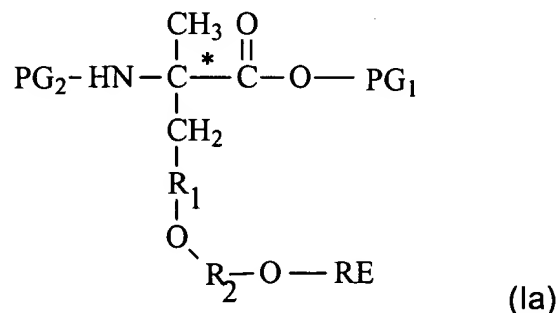
RE is selected from the group consisting of ^{75}Br , ^{124}I and ^{18}F ,

the process comprising the following steps:

(1) reacting a compound of formula (IIc):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same as above, R_3 is a leaving group, PG_1 is a carboxyl protecting group and PG_2 is an amino protecting group, with a salt of RE, wherein RE is the same as above, to produce a compound of formula (Ia):



wherein R_1 , R_2 , RE, PG_1 and PG_2 are the same as above; and

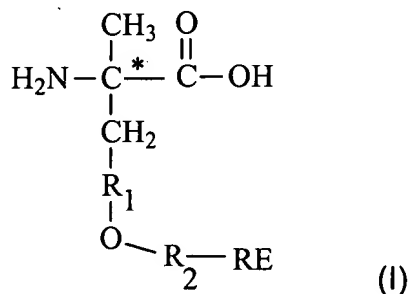
(2) removing the protecting groups.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein R₃ is selected from the group consisting of tosyl, trifyl, mesyl, trimsyl, tripsyl, brosyl and nosyl.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein R₃ is selected from the group consisting of tosyl, trifyl and mesyl.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein R₃ is tosyl.

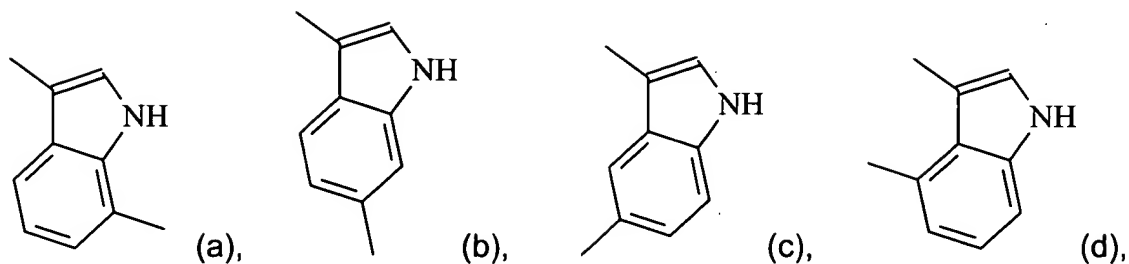
38. (Previously Presented) A method of imaging a tumor in a patient using positron emission tomography (PET) or single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) imaging, the method comprising
administering to the patient a tumor imaging effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture,

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)



R_2 is C_1 - C_7 alkyl, and

RE is selected from the group consisting of ^{75}Br , ^{124}I and ^{18}F ; and
imaging the tumor using PET or SPECT imaging.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the tumor is selected from the group consisting of brain, breast, prostate, colon, lung, liver, pancreas, gastric, lymphoma, uterine, cervical, extremities, sarcoma and melanoma.